

Newsletter published by the SHIBA HelpLine Regional Managers, for time-sensitive health insurance news. Please pass the information on to others!

The latest headlines:

SSA and CMS check low-income subsidy (LIS) client eligibility: The Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will send status and Part D enrollment plan information to eligible LIS clients. SSA is mailing notices to folks who applied for and received the LIS in 2006 to help decide if they still qualify for 2007. For more information, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/prescriptionhelp/> on the Web. CMS will mail information in mid September to folks who are no longer a full-benefit or a partial dual-eligible, or a Supplemental Security Income client. Their automatic LIS eligibility will end on Dec. 31, 2006. The letter explains their pending loss of LIS eligibility and includes an SSA application for them to fill out and return. CMS will also send a letter to clients who still qualify for LIS in 2007, but will have a change in their co-pay level. Clients whose LIS status for 2007 remains unchanged will not receive a letter. For a copy of the LIS Beneficiary Communications & Enrollment Timeline, please [read the attachment](#).

State requires General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU) clients to use managed care provider: Effective Sept. 1, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) requires GAU clients to **only** receive medical care from Community Health Plan providers. **This change affects GAU clients in King and Pierce counties.** Under this coverage, DSHS will pay hospital claims. For questions, clients may call 1-800-440-1561.

Reminder about new dual-eligible folks and Medicare Part D: Folks who are new to Medicare and full Medicaid (also called "dual-eligibles") can get their prescriptions filled before Medicare automatically enrolls them in Medicare Part D. Folks must prove their status by showing their Medicaid Coupon and their Medicare Card to the pharmacist. The pharmacist enrolls folks in WellPoint as a temporary measure, and the fills the prescriptions. Typically, folks are limited to a 30-day medication supply. For a sample of a recent memo to pharmacists with instructions, read http://www.anthem.com/prescription/noapplication/f1/s0/t0/pw_ad066426.pdf on the Web.

.....

Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) HelpLine
Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner
P.O. Box 40256
Olympia, WA 98504-0256
1-800-562-6900

You are receiving this message as a subscriber to the News Flash e-mail list. To unsubscribe, visit listserv.wa.gov.